

U.S. ARMY SERGEANTS MAJOR ACADEMY (BSNCOC)

W107

JUN 99

OTHER TACTICAL OPERATIONS

PRERESIDENT TRAINING SUPPORT PACKAGE

WAR FIGHTERS



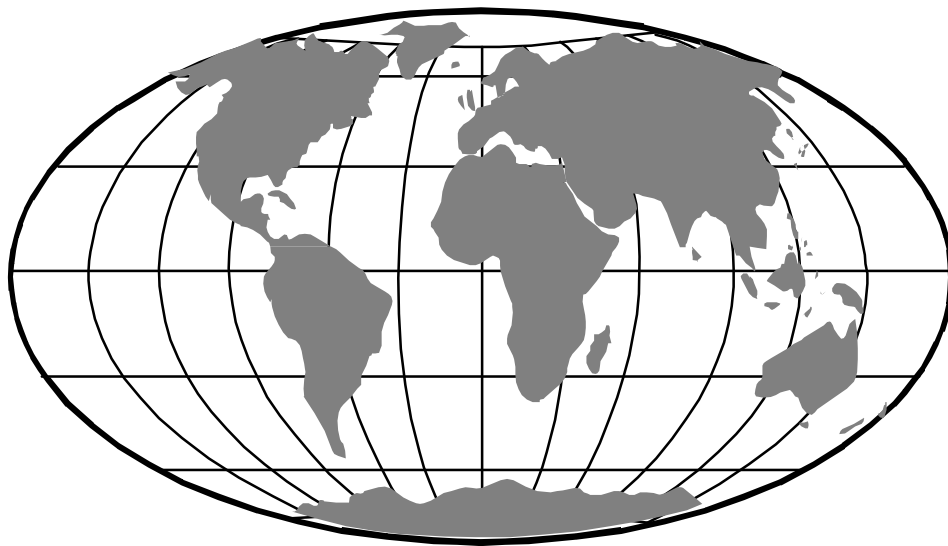
Sergeant Major



Master Sergeant



Sergeant First Class



Staff Sergeant

OF THE 21ST CENTURY

PRERESIDENT TRAINING SUPPORT PACKAGE

TSP Number/ Title	W107 Other Tactical Operations
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Effective Date	JUN 1999
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Supersedes TSPs	This supersedes Preresident Training Support Package W107, May 96, Training Support Package W107, May 95, and Preresident Training Support Package W107, Dec 98.
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TSP User	The following course(s) use(s) this TSP. Battle Staff NCO Course
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Proponent	The proponent for this TSP is the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.
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Comments and Recommendations	Send comments and recommendations on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to: ATTN ATSS DCR CMDT USASMA BLDG 11291 BIGGS FLD FORT BLISS TX 79918-8002
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Foreign Disclosure Restrictions	The lesson developer in coordination with the USASMA foreign disclosure authority has reviewed this lesson. This lesson is releasable to foreign military students from all requesting foreign countries without restrictions.
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**This TSP
contains**

The following table lists the material included in this TSP.

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**Gender
Disclaimer**

Unless this publications states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refers exclusively to men.

SECTION I ADMINISTRATIVE DATA**Task(s)
Trained**

This lesson trains the tasks listed in the following table(s):

Task Number:	None.
Task Title:	Assist in the planning of other tactical operations.
Conditions:	While serving as a Battle Staff NCO in a battalion/brigade Tactical Operation Center.
Standard:	In accordance with FM 71-2 w/Change 1, FM 71-3, and FM 71-123.

**Task(s)
Reinforced**

This lesson reinforces the task(s) listed in the following table:

Task Number	Task Title
301-336-1051	Maintain a situation map
441-091-3001	Direct Unit Air Defense

Prerequisite Lesson W105, Offensive Operations and W106, Defensive Operations.

Clearance and Access There is no security clearance or access requirement for this lesson.

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References The following table lists the reference(s) for this lesson you that will receive in phase II.

Number	Title	Date	Paragraph No.	Additional Information
FM 71-2 w/Change 1	The Tank and Mechanized Infantry Battalion Task Force	Sep 88 Aug 94	NA	NA
FM 71-3	Armored and Mechanized Infantry Brigade	Sep 96	NA	NA
FM 71-123	Tactics and Techniques for Combined Arms Heavy Forces: Armored Brigade, Battalion/Task Force, and Company/Team	Sep 92	NA	NA

Equipment Required None.

Materials Required Pencil and writing paper.

Safety requirements None.

**Risk
Assessment
level**

Low.

**Environmental
Considerations**

None.

**Lesson
Approval**

The following individuals have reviewed and approved this lesson for
Publication, and incorporation into the Battle Staff NCO Course.

Name/Signature	Rank	Title	Date Signed
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SECTION II INTRODUCTION

Terminal Learning Objective

At the completion of this lesson, will-

Action:	Assist in the planning of other tactical operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using material presented in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with FM 71-2 w/Change 1, FM 71-3, FM 71-123, and the material provided in this Preresident Training Support Package.

Evaluation

Prior to being enrolled into Phase II of the Battle Staff Course you must take a Phase I Exam that includes questions on material from this lesson. You must correctly answer 70% of the multiple choice questions to receive a “GO” on the Phase I exam. A “GO” is required for enrollment into Phase II.

Instructional Lead-in

This lesson familiarizes you with Other Tactical Operations and prepares you for duties as a Battle staff NCO at a battalion/task force or brigade level.

We will refer to these types of operations as other tactical operations. During this lesson we will discuss other tactical operations using the battalion task force as the primary model.

In order to effectively support the commander, the staff NCO must have a general understanding of tactics. The staff NCO must understand the concepts of offensive, defensive and other tactical operations.

The fluid and rapid changing environment of the modern battlefield will require units to conduct battlefield operations more frequently and rapidly than ever before.

SECTION III PRESENTATION

ELO 1

Action	Identify the planning of retrograde operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material presented in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with, FM 71-2 w/ Change 1, FM 71-3, and FM 71-123, and the material provided in this Preresident Training Support Package.

Learning Step/ Activity (LS/A) 1, ELO 1, Definition

A retrograde operation is an organized and orderly movement to the rear or away from the enemy. Enemy action may force a retrograde operation or higher headquarters may direct the execution of this operation. The underlying reason for conducting a retrograde operation is to improve a tactical situation or prevent a worse one from occurring.

A task force conducts a retrograde operation as part of a larger force to:

- Avoid combat under unfavorable conditions.
 - Gain time.
 - Reposition or preserve forces.
 - Use a force elsewhere.
 - Harass, exhaust, resist, and delay the enemy.
 - Draw the enemy into an unfavorable position.
 - Shorten lines of communication and supply.
 - Clear zones for friendly use of chemical or nuclear weapons.
 - Conform to the movement of other friendly forces.
-

Types of Planning Considerations for Retrograde Operation

There are three types of retrograde operations:

- Delay—Trade space for time and avoid decisive engagement to preserve the force.
 - Withdrawal—Break contact. (Free a unit for a new mission.)
 - Retirement—Move a force not in contact to the rear.
-

LS/A 1, ELO 1,
Retrograde
Operations:
Planning
Considerations

All retrograde operations are difficult and inherently risky. When planning retrograde operations, you need to consider the following points:

- Leadership and morale.
 - Reconnaissance, surveillance, and security.
 - Mobility.
 - Deception.
 - Conservation of combat power.
-

Leadership and
Morale

Maintenance of the offensive spirit is essential among subordinate leaders and troops during retrograde operations. Movement to the rear may seem as a defeat or a threat of isolation.

Commanders must ensure that soldiers know the purpose of the retrograde movement and their role in the concept of the operation.

Reconnaissance,
Surveillance,
and Security

Timely and accurate intelligence is especially vital during retrograde operations. Reconnaissance and surveillance must locate the enemy so those security elements can deny the enemy information and counter his efforts to pursue, outflank, isolate, or bypass all or a portion of the task force.

The commander must commit a security force that is strong enough to—

- Secure enemy avenues of approach.
- Deceive the enemy and defeat his intelligence efforts.
- Overwatch retrograding units.
- Provide rear guard, flank security, and choke point security.

All available deep operations intelligence collectors remain well forward to detect and locate enemy attempts to pursue, outflank, and isolate all or a portion of the retrograde force.

LS/A 1, ELO 1,
Mobility

To conduct a successful retrograde, the task force seeks to increase its mobility and significantly slow or halt the enemy.

The task force improves its mobility by—

- Reconnoitering routes and battle positions.
- Positioning air defense and security forces at critical points.
- Improving roads, controlling traffic flow, and restricting refugee movement to routes not used by the task force.
- Rehearsing movements.
- Evacuating casualties, recoverable supplies, and excess materiel before the operation.
- Displacing nonessential combat service support activities early in the operation.
- Covering movements by fire.

Therefore, commanders attempt to enhance friendly mobility and degrade that of the enemy.

Degradation
of Enemy
Mobility

The task force degrades the mobility of the enemy by:

- Occupying and controlling terrain or choke points that dominate high-speed avenues of approach.
 - Destroying roads and bridges on the avenues not required for friendly forces.
 - Improving natural obstacles with reinforcing obstacles and covering them with fire.
 - Employing indirect fire and smoke to degrade the enemy's observation and to slow his rate of advance.
 - Conducting spoiling attacks to keep the enemy off balance and force him to react to our attack.
-

LS/A 1, ELO 1,
Deception
Measures

The objective of deception is to hide the fact that a retrograde is taking place. This deception is essential for the success of the task force mission.

The task force can achieve deception by maintaining normal patterns of activity, such as radio traffic, artillery fires, patrolling, and vehicle movements.

The above considerations include using dummy minefields or decoy positions, and conducting feints and demonstrations under limited visibility conditions. The units will never discuss retrograde planning over an unsecured radio net.

Conservation
of Combat
Power

The commander must conserve his combat power by:

- Covertly disengaging and withdrawing less mobile units and nonessential elements before withdrawing the main body.
 - Using mobile forces to cover the withdrawal of less mobile units.
 - Using minimum essential forces to cover the withdrawal of the main body.
-

Command and
Control of
Retrograde
Operations

During a retrograde action, it is imperative that leaders be located as far forward as possible to control their units and assess the situation as it develops.

Detailed planning for the use of communications assets is necessary due to the frequent displacement of command posts.

Retrograde
Operations in
Combination

In many instances, different types of retrograde operations are combined as part of simultaneous or sequential actions.

For example, a withdrawal usually proceeds a retirement and the retirement of one unit may be covered by the delaying action of another.

Purpose of a
Delay

A unit conducts a delay when any of the following requirements exist.

- To gain time to concentrate or withdraw forces.
 - To establish defenses in greater depth.
 - To economize forces in a given area.
-

LS/A 2, ELO 1, Planning Considerations For a Delay	<p>Delay operations are often planned in support of a larger force under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide covering forces for defending or withdrawing main bodies. • As part of the advance guard or covering forces when encountering superior forces. • An economy of force operation conducted to fix or contain an enemy attack on a less critical avenue of approach. • As a deception measure to set up a counterattack. • As a defense.
Battalion Task Force Delay Operations	<p>The delay incorporates all of the dynamics of defense but emphasizes preservation of the force and maintenance of a mobility advantage. The battalion task force may attack, defend, or conduct other actions (such as ambushes and raids) during the delay to destroy the enemy or slow his advance.</p>
Types of Delay Missions	<p>The two types of delay missions are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in sector. • Delay forwards of a specified line or position for a specified time.
Delay in Sector	<p>This is a mission which requires the task force to slow and defeat as much of the enemy as possible without sacrificing the tactical integrity (ability to fight) of the force.</p>
Delay Forward of a Specified Line or Position for a Specified Time	<p>This mission requires the battalion task force to prevent enemy forces from reaching a specified area earlier than the specified time, <u>regardless</u> of the cost.</p> <p>The delay is an economy of force operation that buys time to permit something else to happen, for example, draw the enemy into a trap or allow reinforcements to concentrate.</p>

LS/A 2, ELO 1,
Concept of a
Delay Operation

The concept of the delay is to force the enemy to concentrate repeatedly against successive battle positions by trading space for time.

The delay is much more difficult to execute if the initiative is left entirely to the enemy. Therefore, it is important that the task force attempt to seize the initiative through limited spoiling attacks and counterattacks.

Execution
Considerations

In summary, the following should be taken into consideration in the execution of a delay operation.

- Centralized control and decentralized execution-Leaders at the point of execution should be allowed freedom of action as the situation unfolds.
 - Maximize use of terrain.
 - Force the enemy to repeatedly deploy.
 - Maximize use of obstacles (natural and man-made).
 - Maintain contact with the enemy.
 - Avoid decisive engagement.
-

Course of
Action
Development

Delaying forces must maintain a mobility advantage over the attacker. They must calculate enemy closure rates for the terrain during planning and compare them to friendly displacement rates between positions.

Time-distance factors dictate the amount of time that the task force commander has to engage the enemy and move his unit before decisive engagement occurs. The commander must determine these factors for each avenue of approach!

The commander must use clearly defined decision or trigger points for displacing. These include trigger points for employment of indirect fires and mortar displacement. Obstacles must slow the enemy long enough for the task force to engage and displace.

Sectors of
Responsibility

In a delaying action, each committed unit has sectors of responsibility or battle positions. When using sectors, the task force commander assigns each likely enemy battalion avenue of approach to one company.

Boundaries are assigned so those terrain features can be used to control fire and observation into a sector belonging to the unit having responsibility for the sector.

LS/A 2, ELO 1,
Control
Measures

The graphic control measures that a commander chooses are key portrayals of his intent.

Detailed discussions pertaining to delay operations require an understanding of some basic terms relating to tactical operations.

The following is a list of control measures:

- Phase lines of all higher commands.
 - Supplemental phase lines.
 - Check points.
 - Battle positions and sectors.
 - Engagement areas and target reference points.
 - Assembly areas, main supply route, and logistics release points.
 - Contact points.
 - Coordinating points.
 - Passage points.
 - Routes and lanes.
-

**Delays from
Positions**

These are the two methods of conducting delays from positions.

- Delay from successive positions.
 - Delay from alternate positions.
-

**Delay from
Successive
Positions**

Delay from successive positions involves fighting rearward from one position to the next and holding each for as long as possible or for a specified period.

In this type of delay, all company teams are normally committed on each of the battalion task force delay positions or across the sector on the same phase line.

LS/A 2, ELO 1,
Disadvantages

Under the proper circumstances, the delay from successive positions is a most effective operation. However, several disadvantages of this method should be pointed out. These include:

- Lack of depth.
- Less time to prepare subsequent positions.
- Possible occurrence of gaps between units.

Delay from
Successive
Positions

The following table summarizes the procedure for execution of a delay from successive positions by a battalion task force.

Step	Action
1	When ordered to move, the task force disengages, moves and occupies the next designated position.
2	On receiving the order to delay, a portion of the unit displaces directly to the rear and occupies the next designated position.
3	The remainder of the unit maintains contact with the enemy between the first position and the next delay position.
4	As these elements pass through the second delay position, the second position starts engaging the enemy at maximum effective range of its weapons system.
5	The battalion task force avoids decisive engagement by moving to the next successive position.

LS/A 2, ELO 1,
 Delay from
 Successive
 Positions: An
 Illustration

This graphically depicts a delay from successive positions:

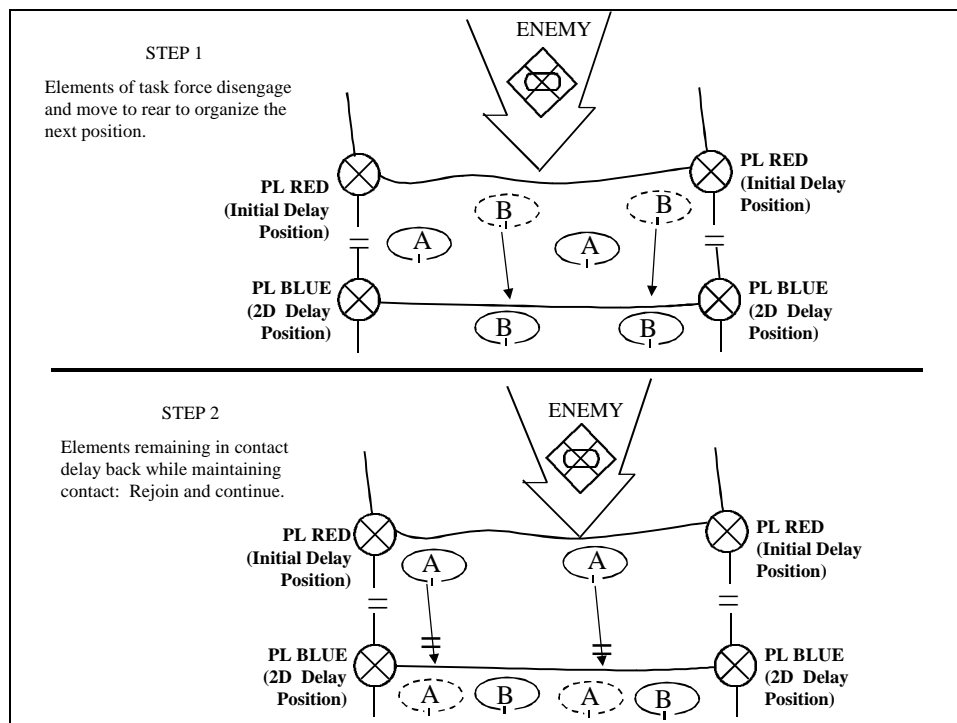


Figure 1-1. Delay from successive positions.

Delay from
 Alternate
 Positions

The task force employs the delay from alternate positions when either of the following situations exists:

- When a task force has a narrow sector or has been reinforced to allow positioning in depth.

When executing a delay from alternate positions, one or more company teams of the battalion task force occupy the initial delay position and engage the enemy. The other teams occupy and prepare a second delay position during the task force's engagement of the enemy. These elements alternate movement in the delay.

LS/A 2, ELO 1,
Delay From
Alternate
Positions

The following table explains the sequential procedure involved in the execution of a delay from alternate positions. The explanation begins with the company teams of the battalion task force having occupied prepared initial and second delay positions.

Step	Action
1	While the forward element is fighting, the other occupies the next position in depth and prepares to assume responsibility for the fight.
2	Units occupying the initial delay position, delay between it and the second delay position.
3	When the delaying units arrive at the second delay position, they move through or around the units that are occupying the second position and move to the third delay position. The units on the second delay position assume responsibility for delaying the enemy.
4	The units repeat this process as necessary. Moving around the unit on the next delay position simplifies passage of lines.

Selection of
Delaying
Positions

Once the task force commander selects positions that allow long-range fields of fire with routes suitable for rearward and lateral movement, he establishes priorities of movement on these routes.

The commander must direct a reconnaissance of the delay positions to determine likely enemy avenues of approach and how to deny their use to the enemy.

These positions should incorporate as many of the following characteristics as possible:

- Good observation and long-range fields of fire.
 - Natural or reinforcing obstacles on the front and flanks.
 - Covered or concealed routes suitable for rearward and lateral movement.
 - A road net or areas providing good cross-country trafficability.
-

Assignment of
Sectors

The task force commander will assign company team sectors astride likely enemy avenues of approach. Normally, a company team covers one major avenue of approach and the terrain dominating that avenue.

LS/A 2, ELO 1,
Tactical Reserve

The battalion task force normally employs a reserve force when conducting a delay operation. The reserve is comparatively small and as mobile as possible. It initially locates in an area from which it can counterattack or move rapidly to reinforce.

Delay from
Alternate
Positions: An
Illustration

This figure graphically depicts a delay from alternate positions:

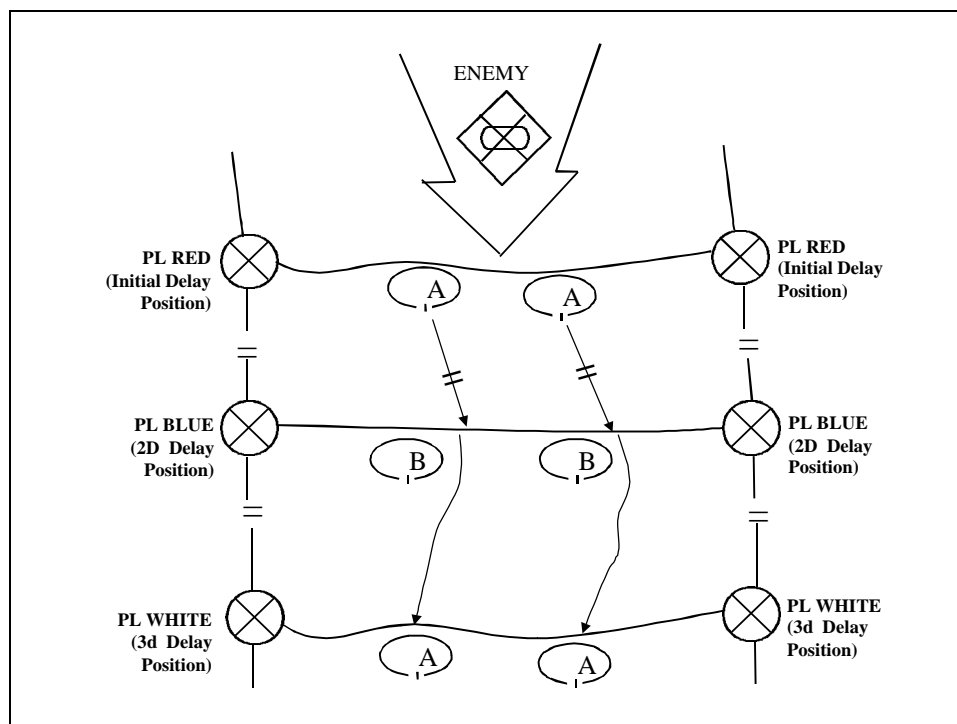


Figure 1-2. Delay from alternate positions.

LS/A 2, ELO 1, Movement Considerations During a Delaying Action	<p>When occupying an initial delay position the unit must establish security and observation posts, before the commander can determine the priority of work.</p> <p>The task force commander recommends to the brigade commander the appropriate time to move from delay positions.</p> <p>The task force commander moves on the basis of prearranged times, trigger points, or other decision criteria on order or when appropriate based on his commander's intent. The commander coordinates movement with higher and adjacent units.</p> <p>The commander should move his unit only after considering the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strength, composition, and location of the enemy attacking force. • Whether the enemy is threatening elements of the task force with decisive engagement or bypass. • The status of adjacent friendly units. How does their status affects the task force's capability to continue the delay? • The condition of the delay force in terms of losses of men, equipment, and morale. • The strength of the currently occupied position in relationship to other positions that the task forces could occupy. • Whether unit survivability or time is key to the mission. <p>After he achieves maximum delay, the commander makes the determination to move. Only then does movement to the next delay position begin. Coordination of fires and recognition signals between the moving element and adjacent, supporting, and overwatch elements is an important task.</p>
Disengagement Techniques	<p>If elements of the task force are threatened with decisive engagement or have become decisively engaged, the commander may take several actions to facilitate their disengagement. In order of priority, the commander may do any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate priority of all indirect supporting fires to the threatened unit. This is the most rapid and responsive method of increasing combat power of the unit. • Direct adjacent units to engage enemy targets forward of the threatened unit. This may require repositioning of units adjacent to or behind the threatened unit. • Reinforce the unit. • Conduct a counterattack to disengage.

LS/A 2, ELO 1, Redesignation of Reserve Force To re-designate a reserve, the task force commander designates the least engaged force to perform reserve missions, especially when delaying on successive positions. The reserve may consist of an element in depth. The reserve missions are:

- Reinforcing.
- Providing overwatch.
- Assuming another unit's mission.
- Counterattacking.
- Blocking.

Each delay must end with a planned operation such as a defense, a withdrawal, or an attack.

LS/A 3, ELO 1, Definition of Withdrawal A withdrawal is a tactical operation in which all or part of a unit frees itself for a new mission.

Purpose of Withdrawal The task force commander conducts a withdrawal to break contact with the enemy. He can execute a withdrawal at any time, during any type of operation, when:

- It becomes necessary to reposition all or part of his force, or
 - When required to attain separation for employment of special weapons.
-

Types of Withdrawal There are two types of withdrawal operations. They are:

- Withdrawal not under enemy pressure.
- Withdrawal under enemy pressure.

Both types of withdrawal begin while the battalion is under threat of enemy interference. Preferably, the battalion makes a withdrawal while not under enemy pressure.

LS/A 3, ELO 1, Assisted Withdrawal	Withdrawals occur either assisted or unassisted. In an assisted withdrawal, the task force uses a security force provided by the next higher headquarters to assist it in breaking contact with the enemy and to provide overwatching fires.
Unassisted Withdrawal	In an unassisted withdrawal, the task force has the requirement to provide its <u>own</u> security force.
Planning Considerations for Withdrawal Phases	<p>Planning considerations for the withdrawal are the same as for the delay. The unit will execute the withdrawal in three overlapping phases. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory phase. • Disengagement phase. • Security phase.
Preparatory Phase	<p>In the preparatory phase, the commander:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatches reconnaissance and quartering elements. • Issues warning orders. • Initiates the planning. <p>The unit relocates the following elements to the rear:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trains. • Main CP. • Nonessential vehicles.
Disengagement Phase	In the disengagement phase, designated elements of the task force begin their movement to the rear. After breaking contact with the enemy, they assemble and conduct a tactical movement to a designated assembly area or position.
Security Phase	<p>In the security phase, a detachment left in contact (DLIC) assists disengagement of other elements and assumes responsibility for the battalion sector. It also deceives the enemy, and protects the movement of disengaged elements with maneuver and fires.</p> <p>The security phase ends when the DLIC completes its movement to the rear.</p>

LS/A 3, ELO 1, Withdrawal not Under Enemy Pressure	<p>If the task force is not under attack, then withdrawal is not under enemy pressure. A withdrawal not under enemy pressure depends on speed of execution and deception.</p> <p>The enemy must not be alerted to the intended withdrawal. Deception and operations security is essential to success!</p>
Deception	<p>Deceptive measures used in a withdrawal include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simulating or continuing normal activities with a DLIC that deceives the enemy into believing that defending forces are still in position. • Continuing normal communications. • Continuing patrolling activity. • Taking advantage of limited visibility to cover the withdrawal.
Operations Security	<p>Operations security (OPSEC) complements the deception effort for the withdrawal. Units must not transmit information that might compromise the intention to withdraw. Additional OPSEC measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining noise and light discipline. • Masking of movements by artillery fire. • Continuing counter-reconnaissance activities.
Reconnaissance Activities	<p>Before executing the withdrawal, commanders must conduct a thorough reconnaissance and establish control measures to ensure control. Each key leader must know and understand the plan of withdrawal in detail and should participate in the reconnaissance. The leaders reconnoiter the start points, routes, release points, and assembly areas. This reconnaissance should be conducted during a condition of visibility that approximates the withdrawal conditions.</p>

LS/A 3, ELO 1,
Operation
Order
(OPORD)

The battalion task force operation order for a withdrawal should include:

- When the withdrawal is to start.
- Location of the task force assembly area.
- Required actions of each company team upon arrival at the assembly area.
- The location of each company team assembly area.
- Required routes of movement from the company team assembly areas to the task force assembly area or to the next position.
- The size, composition, mission, and commander of the DLIC.
- Subsequent task force and company missions.

Withdrawal not
Under Pressure:
An Illustration

This figure graphically depicts a withdrawal not under pressure:

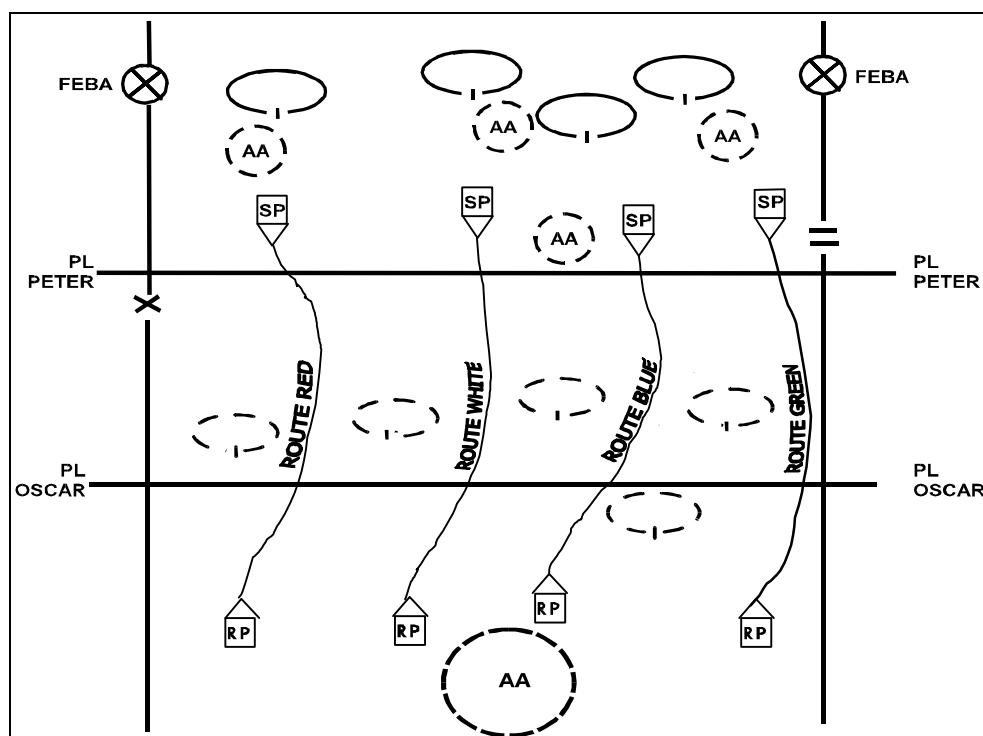


Figure 1-3. Withdrawal not under pressure.

Detachment Left
in Contact
(DLIC)

In an unassisted withdrawal not under pressure, the commander organizes the DLIC from elements from each company in contact with the enemy.

LS/A 3, ELO 1, DLIC: Command and Control	<p>The task force commander must exercise command and control of the DLIC to closely simulate normal task force activities. The task force S-3 is in charge of the battalion DLIC and company XO's are in charge of their respective DLICs.</p> <p>The task force commander may leave a company team intact as the DLIC. When that occurs, the unit will reposition elements of the company team to cover the entire task force sector. When the main danger is on a single company team's approach, the task force commander may leave that team in position and attach security elements from the another team.</p>
DLIC: Organization and Mission	<p>The task force commander determines the size and composition of the DLIC based on METT-T:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission. • Enemy. • Terrain. • Troops available. • Time. <p>The DLIC must detect the enemy, deceive him, and engage him on all avenues of approach with both direct and indirect fires.</p>
Task Force Main Body Mission	<p>The remaining maneuver, combat support, and control elements constitute the main body of the task force. The mission of the task force main body is to displace, using stealth, move along designated routes, assemble, and move to a new location in preparation for further orders.</p> <p>The main body moves in accordance with priorities established by the task force commander. Main body elements may receive on-order missions to defend, delay, or counterattack during the withdrawal.</p>
Task Force Reserve	<p>Reserves or units positioned in depth within the battalion sector may coordinate withdrawal before, during, or after the displacing elements of the forward companies. Generally, they withdraw after these elements. This increases flexibility and security in the event the enemy detects the withdrawal and attacks.</p>

LS/A 3, ELO 1, Withdrawal Under Enemy Pressure	<p>In a withdrawal under enemy pressure, elements use delaying tactics to fight their way to the rear. A successful withdrawal of this type depends on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maneuver. • Firepower to break contact as the enemy attacks the task force.
Planning and Coordination	<p>Commanders conduct a reconnaissance to the rear to identify routes that offer the best cover and concealment and determine engineer assistance required overcoming obstacles. A withdrawal under enemy pressure requires close coordination and control between withdrawing units and security forces.</p>
Control Measures	<p>The task force commander should prescribe specific control measures to maintain order during the withdrawal under enemy pressure. These control measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectors. • Battle positions. • Phase lines. • Routes. • Passage lanes or passage points. • Contact points. • Checkpoints. • Battle handover line.
Security Force	<p>Success of the withdrawal under pressure depends on facilitating disengagement of the main body by massing its own fires and overwatching fires provided by a <u>security force</u>.</p> <p>The brigade commander may place adjacent units or a reserve in overwatch, or he may require them to conduct security operations or limited counterattacks to support the withdrawing task force.</p> <p>To assist withdrawing elements, the security force must be strong enough to detect and engage the enemy on all avenues of approach. The task force may form its own security force from forward company team elements.</p>

LS/A 3, ELO 1,
Security Force
Missions

Security force missions in support of a withdrawal under enemy pressure include:

- Stopping, disrupting, disorganizing, or reducing the enemy's capability to pursue.
 - Reducing through smoke and suppressive fires the enemy's capability to observe movement of the task force.
 - Rapidly concentrating additional combat power in critical areas.
-

Withdrawal
Under Enemy
Pressure: Recap

The following table summarizes the procedures followed by the battalion task force in executing a withdrawal under enemy pressure.

Step	Action
1	On receipt of the withdrawal order, the battalion engages the enemy with concentrated direct and indirect fire to enable the withdrawing force to disengage, conduct a rearward passage through the security force, assemble, and move to the next position.
2	The security force assumes the fight for the forward elements. This includes delaying the enemy advance while the bulk of the task force conducts movement to the rear.
3	When ordered, or in compliance with predetermined criteria, the security force disengages itself and moves to the rear and assumes the role of the rear guard. The task force's next mission may require the security force to maintain contact with the enemy throughout the operation.

LS/A 3, ELO 1,
Withdrawal
Under Enemy
Pressure: An
Illustration

This figure graphically depicts a withdrawal under enemy pressure.

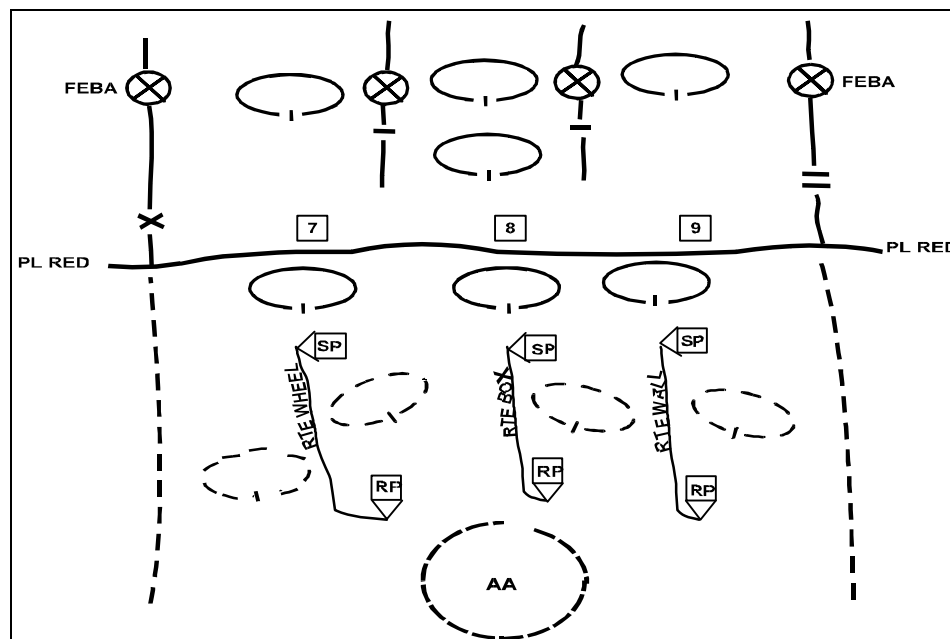


Figure 1-4. Control measures for withdrawal under enemy pressure.

LS/A 4, ELO 1,
Definition of
Retirement

A retirement is a retrograde operation in which a force that is not in contact with the enemy moves to the rear in an organized manner.

Planning for
Retirement

The task force may conduct a retirement following the withdrawal. In this case, the retirement begins after the main forces have broken physical contact with the enemy and the unit commanders form the march columns. Commanders conduct retirement operations to—

- Occupy more favorable terrain.
- Conform to the disposition of another force.
- Permit the employment of the force in other sector.
- Increase the distance between the defender and the enemy.

Security

Security for the main body is similar to the security for a movement to contact. Advance, flank, and rear guards provide it. If enemy contact occurs, the rear guard uses delaying actions to hold the advancing enemy.

LS/A 4, ELO 1,
Retirement
Operation

The unit will normally conduct a retirement at night.

A retirement may have an adverse impact on the morale of friendly troops. Leadership must be positive and must keep soldiers informed of the purpose of the retirement and future intentions of the chain of command.

A task force conducts a retirement as part of a larger force.

LS/A 5, ELO 1,
Lesson
Exercise 1

Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 1](#).

ELO 2

Action	Identify the planning of passage of lines operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material presented in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with, FM 71-2 w/ Change 1, FM 71-3, FM 71-123, and the material provided in this Preresident Training Support Package.

**Learning Step/
Activity (LS/A)**
1, ELO 2,

Definition of
Passage of Lines

A passage of lines is an operation in which one unit moves through another unit either to come into or move out of contact with the enemy.

When a unit moves toward the enemy through a stationary unit, it is a forward passage. Rearward passages are movements away from the enemy through friendly units. The covering force withdrawing through the main battle area, or an exploiting force moving through the initial attacking force, are examples.

Purpose of
Passage of Lines

A passage of lines is necessary when one unit cannot bypass another. The units conduct a passage of lines to:

- Continue an attack or counterattack.
 - Envelop an enemy force.
 - Pursue a fleeing enemy.
 - Withdraw covering forces.
-

LS/A 1, ELO 2, Vulnerability	<p>The battalion task force is vulnerable during a passage of lines, because the concentration of units may not allow for proper reaction to enemy activity.</p> <p>Detailed reconnaissance and coordination are key elements in ensuring a quick and smooth passage.</p>
Planning Considerations for a Passage of Lines	<p>Planning considerations to conduct a passage of lines (forward or rearward) are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task organization. • Order of movement. • Command and control. • Control measures. • Fire support. • Reconnaissance. • Coordination.
Task Organization	<p>Task organization is determined and put into effect before movement to passage. The unit will maintain the unit/team task organization for the tactical mission during the passage to avoid reorganization following the passage of the unit/team.</p>
Order of Movement	<p>A movement order precludes confusion and congestion by setting priorities on unit movements. Prescribe an order of movement on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme of maneuver after completion of passage. • Number of passage points. • Degree of security required. • Enemy situation. • Terrain.
Command and Control	<p>Units establish multiple passage points and routes with centralized control. To ensure coordination of passage with a minimum of confusion and misunderstanding, the command groups of the passing and stationary elements are collocated.</p>

LS/A 1, ELO 2,
Control
Measures

Within the area of passage, both passing and stationary units should use the same control measures. These control measures include the following:

- Assembly areas.
- Battle handover line (BHL).
- Attack position.
- Passage lanes.
- Passage point.
- Time of passage.
- Recognition signals.
- Contact point.
- Routes, including start and release points.

The unit conducting the passage has priority for use of routes to and within the area of operations of the unit in contact.

Fire Support

The stationary unit integrates its direct and indirect fires into the fire support plan of the passing unit. All direct and indirect fire support responds directly to the commander responsible for the zone of action.

Reconnaissance

A thorough reconnaissance covers routes to, through, and beyond the area of passage. The reconnaissance should note existing and proposed troop locations.

A technique to ensure deception during a passage is to limit the number and size of reconnaissance parties and use vehicles of the stationary unit.

Coordination

During the planning process, elements involved in a passage of lines must coordinate the following:

- Exchange of intelligence, tactical plans, and signal operation instructions.
 - Reconnaissance and security plans.
 - Priority of routes.
 - Time of transfer of control.
 - Combat service support requirements.
 - Deception plans.
-

LS/A 1, ELO 2,
Types

There are two types of passage of lines operations. They are:

- Rearward passage of lines.
 - Forward passage of lines.
-

**Rearward
Passage of Lines**

A rearward passage of lines is an operation in which a unit conducting a retrograde movement (withdrawal) passes through the sector of a unit occupying a rearward position.

A unit executes a withdrawal through a rearward position to achieve relief from over commitment or depletion or to accomplish another mission. Figure 1-5 depicts a rearward passage of lines.

**Forward Passage
of Lines**

A forward passage of lines is an operation in which a unit passes through another unit toward the enemy to continue the attack. The unit in contact remains in place and supports the unit passing through by masking its fires on the enemy activity.

LS/A 1, ELO 2,
Rearward
Passage of Lines:
An Illustration

This figure graphically depicts a rearward passage of lines:

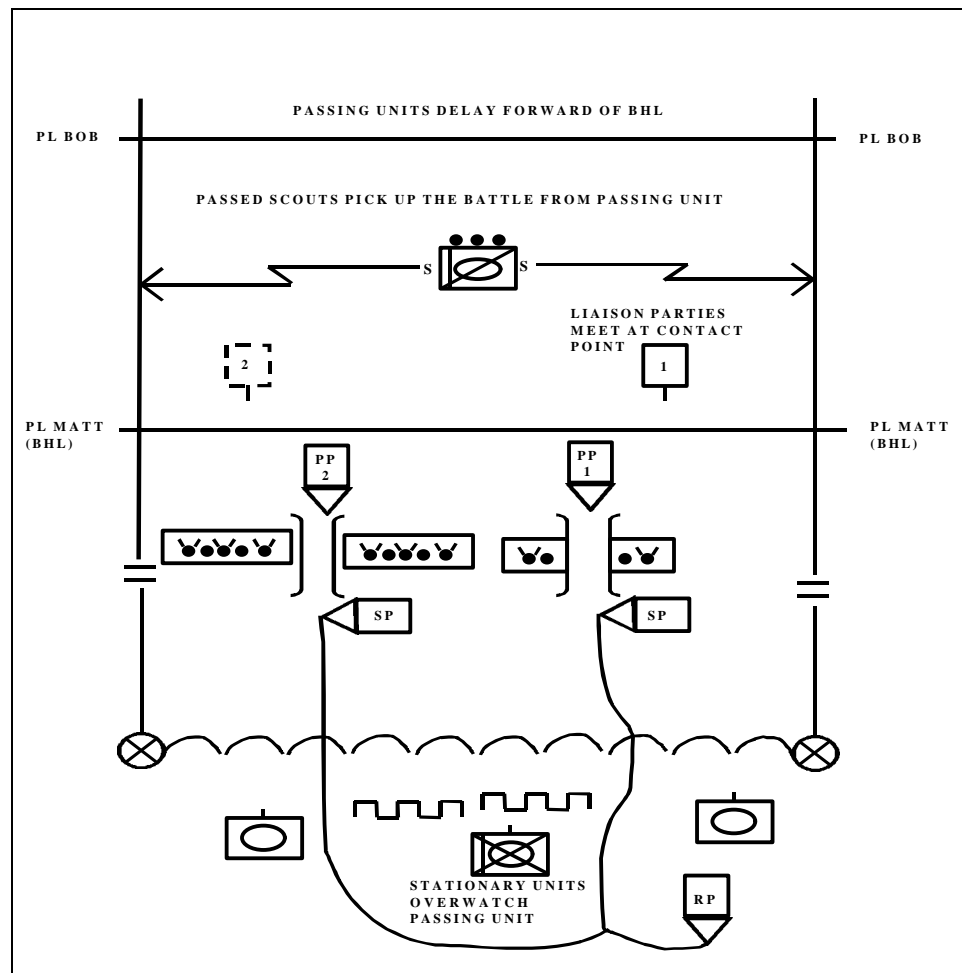


Figure 1-5. Rearward passage of lines.

LS/A 2, ELO 2,
Lesson
Exercise 1

Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 2](#).

ELO 3

Action	Identify the planning of relief operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material presented in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with, FM 71-2 w/ Change 1, FM 71-3, FM 71-123, and the material provided in this Preresident Training Support Package.

Learning Step/ Activity (LS/A) 1, ELO 3, Definition of Relief operation	<p>A relief operation is one in which a unit replaces another unit in combat. The incoming unit assumes responsibilities for the mission and assigned sector or zone of action.</p> <p>Conduct a relief during offensive or defensive operations and during any weather and light conditions. Units normally execute them during limited visibility to reduce the possibility of detection.</p>
Purpose of Relief operation	<p>The purpose of a relief operation is to maintain the combat effectiveness of a committed unit.</p>
Circumstances	<p>Units may conduct relief operations under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reconstitute a unit that has sustained heavy losses. • To introduce a new unit into combat. • To rest a unit that has completed prolonged operations. • To decontaminate or provide medical treatment to a unit. • To conform to a larger tactical plan or make mission changes. • To change the mission of a unit.
Types of Relief Operations	<p>There are two types of relief operations. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief to continue the defense. • Relief to continue the offense.
Relief to Continue the Defense	<p>A unit can conduct this type of relief operation using <u>two methods</u>. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area relief. • Relief in place.
Relief to Continue the Offense	<p>A unit can conduct this type of relief operation using three methods. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area relief. • Relief in place. • Forward passage of lines.

LS/A 1, ELO 3, Area Relief	Area relief is the least common. Units conduct this when they are dissimilar or when improved defensive terrain is away from the line of contact.
Relief in Place	<p>The use of relief in place is the most common form of relief in the defense. When a unit has similar organizations or when occupied terrain must be retained. This type of relief requires more time than the area relief.</p> <p>The relief in place is the least common form of relief in the offense because of the detailed coordination and lengths of time it takes to conduct the operation.</p> <p>Additionally, the relief in place requires detailed planning and coordination, as the incoming unit will assume the same positions and missions of the outgoing unit.</p>
Forward Passage of Lines	The forward passage of lines is the most common form of relief in the offense. It takes the least amount of time and coordination. This form of relief also assists in maintaining the momentum of the attack.
Conduct of Relief Operations, Liaison	<p>Upon receipt of the order to conduct the relief, the task force commander and his staff develop their estimates.</p> <p>The relieving unit establishes continuous liaison with the relieved unit immediately upon receipt of the relief order.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The relieving command group moves to the relieved unit's main command post (CP) to coordinate the operation. • The relieving unit XO supervises the unit's movement to an assembly area to the rear of the relieved unit. <p>Liaison involves the coordination of the task force maneuver and fire support plan and an intelligence update that includes past, present, and probable enemy action.</p>
Sequence of Relief	The sequence of relief is from rear to front. Give particular attention to the combat effectiveness of the units and their subsequent missions

LS/A 1, ELO3,
Methods of
Relief

The three different methods (techniques) that may be used to conduct a relief operation are:

- Relieving units one at a time.
 - Relieving units simultaneously.
 - Relieving by occupying in-depth or adjacent position.
-

Relieving Units
One at a Time

This method is the most time-consuming. The combat trains of the two units may be collocated to facilitate coordination and transfer of equipment, excess ammunition, fuel, water, and medical supplies. Relieving units maintain radio-listening silence and monitor the relieved unit's command net.

Relieving Units
Simultaneously

This method is the fastest, but sacrifices secrecy and causes confusion because all units move at once. When the command groups and combat trains are collocated and plans and equipment have been exchanged, the units of the relieving battalion task force move at once along the designated routes.

Relief occurs simultaneously at each location. Relieved units withdraw immediately once they are relieved; they do not wait for the other units of the task force.

Relieving by
Occupying
In-depth or
Adjacent
Position

A unit can conduct a relief in place by occupying in-depth or adjacent positions. To facilitate this method, the relieving unit should be able to place direct fires on the other unit's direct fire engagement areas. This method is particularly useful if the relieved unit has been chemically or radiologically contaminated.

The relieving unit maintains radio-listening silence until the responsibility of the sector or zone is passed. The unit being relieved maintains normal traffic. The next higher headquarters directs coordination between units. The relieved unit withdraws one unit at a time or simultaneously, depending on the situation.

LS/A 1, ELO 3,
Relief Operation:
An Illustration

This figure graphically depicts a relief operation of a task force:

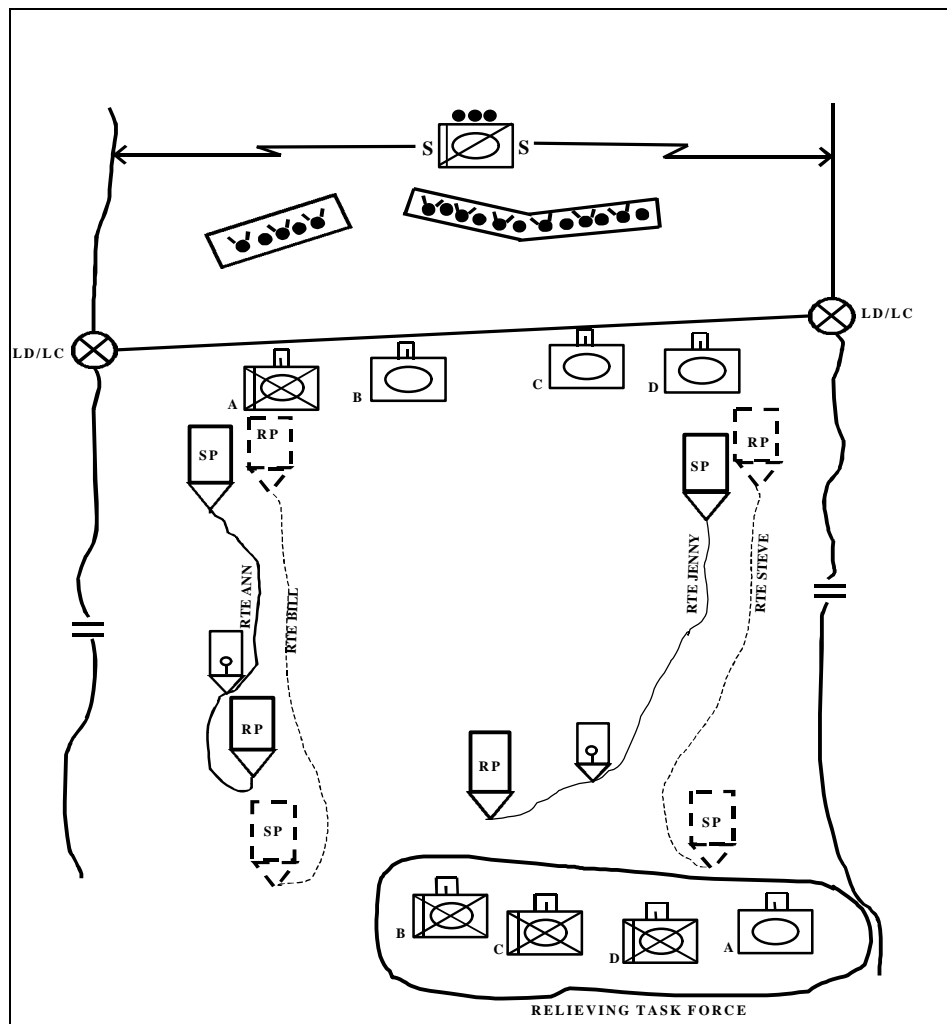


Figure 1-6. Relief of a task force.

LS/A 1, ELO 3,
Relief
Operations:
Key points

Several important points to keep in mind in the planning and conduct of a relief operation are:

Point	Discussion
1	The task force commanders mutually agree to the sequence of the relief and then for the passage of command. The passage of command normally takes place when one-half of the relieving units are in position.
2	Prior to the movement, the commanders ensure coordination for fire support measures between the two units to include the exchange of the current target list.
3	Task force commanders exchange the location and types of obstacles. The commander designates routes and ranks them in order of priority to eliminate confusion during movement.
4	If either unit comes into direct fire contact with the enemy while the relief is taking place, it immediately notifies the other unit and the higher headquarters.
5	The unit not having command responsibility for the sector, then becomes OPCON to the other unit.
6	Units conducting relief during limited visibility should not move grounded crew-served weapons. Relaying them will adversely affect their effectiveness.

Exchange of
Equipment

A unit can exchange certain types of equipment between the units involved in conducting a relief operation. This equipment includes:

- Machine gun tripods, and other supports for crew-served weapons or equipment.
- Bulky or excess supplies.
- Wire.
- Employed sensors and radar sets.
- Chemical alarm systems.

LS/A 1, ELO 3,
Relief Order

When planning and coordination are complete, the task force commander issues his order. To reduce confusion and maintain secrecy, the relief order should, as a minimum, include:

- Time at which responsibility for the sector, battle position, or zone is effective.
- Fire support plan.
- Operations security (OPSEC) considerations.
- Deception plans.
- Time, method, and sequence of relief.
- Concept of subsequent mission.
- Plans for additional positions--changes to present concept.
- Routes and critical control measures.
- Contingency plans.
- Location and transfer of responsibility for obstacles.
- Transfer of ammunition, wire lines, petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL), and materiel to incoming unit.

LS/A 2, ELO 3,
Lesson
Exercise 3

Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 3](#).

ELO 4

Action	Identify the planning of a breakout from encirclement.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material presented in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with, FM 71-2 w/ Change 1, FM 71-3, FM 71-123, and the material provided in this Preresident Training Support Package.

**Learning Step/
Activity (LS/A)**
1, ELO 4,
Encirclement

Because of battlefield mobility and the nonlinear nature of the battlefield, there will be situations where forces become encircled or bypassed.

Encirclement occurs when a ground force has all of its ground routes of evacuation and reinforcement cut by the enemy.

Breakout from
Encirclement

A breakout is an offensive operation conducted by an encircled force. An encircled force conducts a breakout from encirclement to regain freedom of movement (initiative) or contact with friendly units.

LS/A 1, ELO 4, Purpose of Breakout	A breakout from encirclement allows the encircled force to regain freedom of movement or contact with friendly units. Encirclement does not imply that enemy forces in strength surround the unit.
Elements of a Successful Breakout	<p>To be successful in a breakout from encirclement, a battalion task force must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deceive the enemy as to the composition, strength, and intentions of the task force. • Conduct reconnaissance, and then concentrate sufficient combat power at an enemy weak point. • Provide security to the flanks and rear of the task force as it moves out of the encircled area.
Planning Considerations	<p>The following planning considerations must be taken into account by the task force commander when preparing for a breakout from encirclement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time of attack. • Location of attack. • Speed of execution. • Security. • Evacuation of wounded. • Destruction of equipment and supplies. • Combat support. • Organization. • Other preparations for the attack.
Time of Attack	Attacking at night or during other conditions of limited visibility is advantageous; however, if waiting for limited visibility risks destruction of the battalion task force, the unit must execute the attack as soon as possible.
Location of Attack	The battalion attacks the enemy's weakest point. Against scattered resistance, it attacks through gaps between enemy units.
Speed of Execution	Breakout operations depend largely on speed of execution. The unit achieves the breakthrough when the elements move out of the encircled area, maintaining the momentum of the attack to link with friendly units.

LS/A 1, ELO 4, Security	<p>When the task force commander determines that his unit is encircled, he moves his mortars, combat trains, and main CP toward the center of the area to ensure their survival. He also may have to redeploy some of his maneuver companies to provide all-round security.</p> <p>Since the battalion task force concentrates the bulk of its forces to break through enemy resistance, its rear and flanks are vulnerable. The task force commander organizes his rear guard to protect those areas. A feint by the rear guard may deceive the enemy as to the intentions of the task force.</p>
Evacuation of Wounded	<p>The unit does not leave wounded soldiers behind. Once the breakout is complete the unit can evacuate most of severely wounded by air. The unit can evaluate the less severely wounded soldiers in conjunction with emergency resupply.</p>
Destruction of Equipment and Supplies	<p>Carry all equipment and supplies from the encircled area. The unit can destroy or abandon some usable equipment and supplies in order to execute breakout operations quickly.</p>
Combat Support	<p>The battalion task force uses suppressive fire to support movement.</p>
Organization	<p>Regardless of previous command relationships, all elements encircled become attached to the senior tactical commander. The commander can organize the battalion task force into <u>four elements</u> for breakout operations. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rupture force. • Reserve force. • Main body. • Rear guard. <p>A separate discussion of each element follows.</p>
Rupture Force	<p>A rupture force penetrates enemy positions and opens a gap for the remainder of the battalion task force to pass through. The commander can organize a rupture force with the necessary combat power to accomplish the initial breach of the enemy force.</p>

LS/A 1, ELO 4, Reserve Force	<p>A reserve force follows and assists the rupture force. The reserve force normally passes through the rupture force, maintaining the momentum of the breakout operation.</p> <p>The task force commander determines the composition of the reserve force based upon the amount of combat power needed to make the penetration and maintain momentum once the operation starts.</p>
Main Body	<p>The main body consists of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Command group. • Main command post (CP). • Combat support (CS) and Combat service support (CSS) elements. <p>CS elements are task-organized to support the attack. CSS elements move as a single group within the main body.</p>
Rear Guard	<p>A rear guard protects the rear of the battalion task force as it moves out of the encircled area. The rear guard must be strong enough to delay or disrupt an enemy attack.</p> <p>The rear guard normally consists of a company team, or a reinforced company.</p>
Scout Platoon	<p>The task force commander employs the scout platoon to assist the reserve after its transition to the advance guard. The scouts can conduct forward reconnaissance or screen to the flanks of the advance guard.</p> <p>The commander can also place the scouts OPCON to the rear guard to screen or maintain contact with the enemy.</p>
Command and Control	<p>Since the task force may have to fight in numerous directions during the breakout, the commander must clearly define the control of the task force subordinates. He assigns command responsibilities of the rupture, reserve, rear guard, CS, and CSS elements to maintain the momentum of the attack, even if it degrades communications within the task force.</p>

LS/A 1, ELO 4,
Other
Preparations
for the Attack

After the task force commander has completed his estimate, he issues orders and initiates the attack. The rupture force moves to its attack position. The rear guard assumes the defensive responsibility and remains in position to protect the task force rear area and deceive the enemy as to the rupture force's intentions. Limit control measures for the operation are:

- Objectives for the rupture force.
- An axis of advance.
- Checkpoints.

Conduct of the
Breakout

At the designated time of attack, the rupture force conducts a deliberate attack to seize its initial objective and hold the shoulders of the penetration.

Once the unit makes the penetration, the reserve force assumes the lead as the task force either continues a deliberate attack or begins a movement to contact.

The primary effort of the task force is to make the initial penetration, then to maintain the momentum of the attack. The main body follows the reserve force through the penetration. Initially, priority of fire support goes to the rupture force(s).

Upon completion of the breakout, the battalion task force continues its attack to link up with friendly units. The task force may have to conduct hasty attacks or bypass enemy resistance as it fights its way toward friendly forces.

LS/A 2, ELO 4,
Lesson
Exercise 4

Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 4](#).

ELO 5

Action	Identify the planning of linkup operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material presented in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with, FM 71-2 w/ Change 1, FM 71-3, FM 71-123, and the material provided in this Preresident Training Support Package.

Learning Step/ Activity (LS/A) 1, ELO 5, Purpose of Linkup operations	<p>The battalion task force conducts linkup operations to join two friendly forces. Both forces may be moving toward one another, or one may be stationary or encircled.</p>
Circumstances of Linkup operations	<p>A unit can conduct linkup operations in a variety of circumstances. Unit commanders can execute the linkup in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the encirclement of an enemy force. • Assist breakout of an encircled friendly force. • Join an attacking force with a force inserted in the enemy rear (for example, an airborne or air assault force).
Linkup Involving one Stationary and one Moving Force	<p>When one of the units involved in a linkup is stationary, the location of linkup points is where the moving force's routes arrive at the location of the stationary force's security elements.</p> <p>Stationary forces assist in the linkup by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening lanes in minefields. • Breaching or removing selected obstacles. • Furnishing guides. • Designating assembly areas.
Linkup Between Two Moving Units	<p>This is a much more difficult operation. The units will establish primary and alternate linkup points for two moving forces on the boundaries where the two forces will linkup and exchange information.</p> <p>As the joining units move closer to one another, the need for positive control is paramount to avoid firing upon one another. Also, leading elements of each force must be on a common radio net.</p>

LS/A 1, ELO 5,
Linkup Between
Two Moving
Units: An
Illustration

This figure graphically depicts a linkup between two moving units:

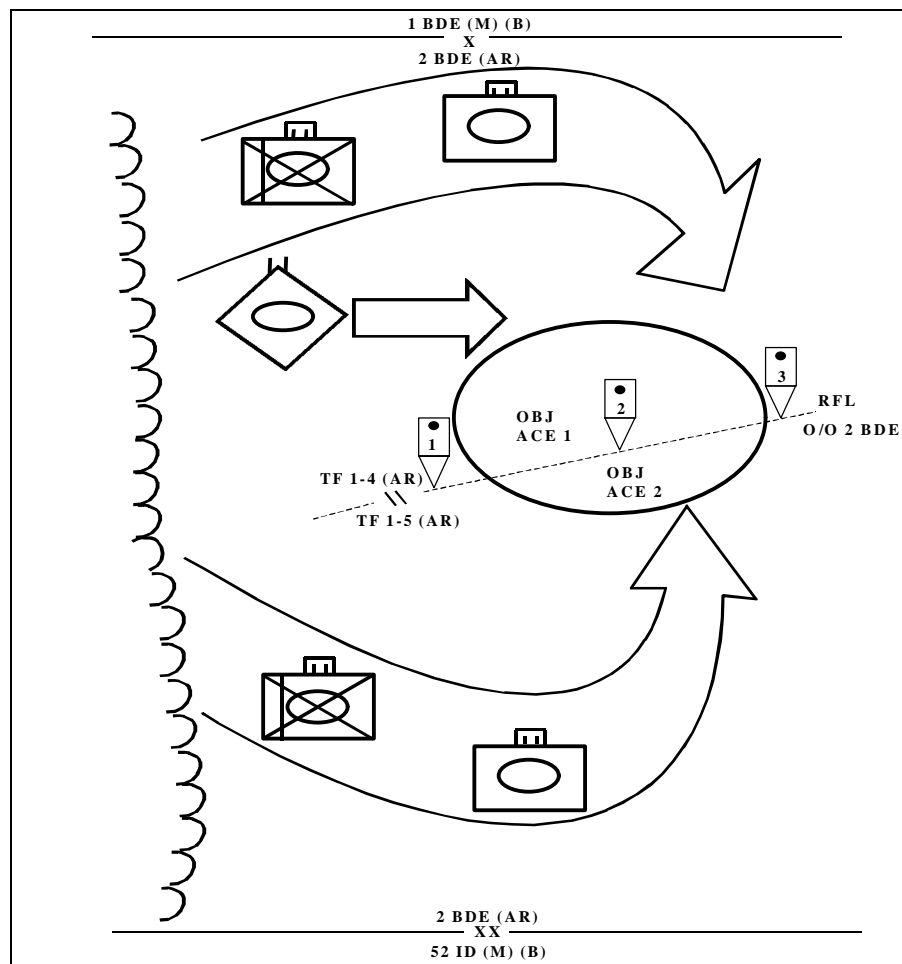


Figure 1-7. Linkup between two moving units.

Planning
Considerations

The unit must consider these areas when planning a linkup operation:

- Command relationships.
- Liaison and responsibilities.
- Communications.
- Coordination and schemes of maneuver.
- Actions following the linkup.

LS/A 1, ELO 5, Command Relationships	The headquarters directing the linkup must establish command relationships between forces and the responsibilities of each force during the operation.
Liaison and Responsibilities	<p>When possible, the commanders of the units involved establish liaison. If conditions permit, the commander and liaison teams meet face to face before the operation begins. If the enemy is between the forces conducting a linkup, the unit will make coordination by radio when liaison can not occur. As a minimum, the forces exchange the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enemy and friendly situations. • Locations and types of obstacles. • Fire support plan. • Air defense measures. • Recognition signals.
Communications	The headquarters directing the linkup is responsible for ensuring that signal operating instructions (SOI) and recognition signals are compatible between the two forces. If the attacking units do not have the same communications electronics operating instructions (CEOI), the higher headquarters directs one unit to change, normally the unit not in contact.
Coordination of Schemes of Maneuver	<p>All elements in a linkup carefully coordinate their operations to minimize the risk of fratricide. This coordination continues throughout the operation and increases as the units approach the linkup points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zones of attack or axes of advance. • Phase lines. • Restrictive fire lines (RFLs) • Coordinated fire line (CFL) • Checkpoints. • Linkup and alternate linkup points.
Zones of Attack or Axes of Advance	When one or more friendly force is moving, their direction and objective are under the control of higher headquarters.

LS/A 1, ELO 5, Phase Lines	Higher headquarters, through the use of phase lines, controls the movement of their units.
Restrictive Fire Lines (RFLs)	The uses of these lines are to prevent friendly forces from engaging one another with indirect fires. One technique is to make the phase lines on order RFLs. As the unit crosses a phase line, the next phase line becomes the RFL.
Coordinated Fire Line (CFL)	The use of the CFL is to linkup operations to allow direct fire engagement of targets outside the area of both units.
Checkpoints	The use of checkpoints is for controlling unit movement and designating overwatch positions.
Linkup and Alternate linkup Points	The location of a linkup point is where two forces meet and coordinate operations. The point must be easily identifiable on the ground, and the unit must plans recognition signals. The unit must establish alternative linkup points in the event that enemy action precludes linkup at the primary point.
Actions Following the Linkup	<p>If possible, the unit should coordinate subsequent operations before the linkup operation and modified, if necessary, when the linkup occurs.</p> <p>The two commanders should collocate near the linkup point, or at a prearranged location, to confirm or coordinate their subsequent operations.</p>
LS/A 2, ELO 5, Lesson Exercise 5	Click here to go to Lesson Exercise 5 .

ELO 6

Action	Identify the planning of hasty water crossing operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material presented in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with, FM 71-2 w/ Change 1, FM 71-3, FM 71-123, and the material provided in this Preresident Training Support Package.

**Learning Step/
Activity (LS/A)**
**1, ELO 6, Types
of Water
Crossings**

The task force plans and conducts three types of water crossings. They are:

- Hasty.
- Deliberate.
- Retrograde.

To maintain momentum the battalion task force normally uses hasty water crossings. A hasty water crossing is a decentralized operation to cross an inland body of water such as a canal, lake, or river. These operations include crossings by tactical bridging or by swimming or fording vehicles.

The battalion normally participates in a deliberate or retrograde river crossing as a part of a larger force.

This section will focus on the battalion task force and its role in the hasty water crossing.

**Purpose of a
Hasty Water
Crossing**

The task force conducts hasty water crossings to maintain momentum of an operation. The approach to the water obstacle is made rapidly on a broad front whenever possible.

**Characteristics
of a Hasty Water
Crossing**

Hasty water crossing operations require detailed planning to ensure that fire support and crossing means are available when the task force arrives at the obstacle. Hasty crossings are feasible when the site is lightly defended, when crossing means are readily available, and when mechanized infantry and fire support are sufficient.

Crossings are not entirely dependent on the seizure of bridges or fords. Normally, mechanized infantry units cross first to establish a bridgehead on the far bank to protect the crossing of the remainder of the command.

LS/A 1, ELO 6,
Characteristics
of a Hasty Water
Crossing

Hasty water crossings have the following characteristics:

- Speed, surprise, and a minimum loss of momentum.
 - Decentralized operations with organic, existing, or expedient resources.
 - Weak or non-existent enemy defenses on both flanks.
 - Minimum concentration of forces.
 - Quick continuation of the operation.
-

Planning
Considerations

All water crossings are inherently risky and difficult. To succeed, commanders and staffs must understand the planning considerations necessary for a hasty water crossing. They include:

- Command and control.
 - Crossing assets.
 - Time of the crossing.
 - Selection of crossing sites.
 - Reconnaissance of crossing sites.
-

Command and
Control

The battalion executive officer (XO) assumes control of the elements in and around the crossing site.

Crossing Assets

The units use all available assets to cross the most troops and items of equipment in the shortest possible time. These units use any vehicles that have a swimming capability to expedite the crossing. Supporting engineers may furnish or construct additional rafts, bridges, and assault boats. Available assault helicopter assets can also move troops, supplies, and equipment across the water.

Time of the
Crossing

The decision whether to cross in daylight or in darkness depends on:

- Need for concealment.
 - State of training of the troops.
 - Nature of the terrain.
 - Characteristics of the water obstacle.
 - Enemy disposition and capabilities.
 - Need for speed.
-

LS/A 1, ELO 6,
Actions to
Ensure Success

Units should rehearse and time the following actions prior to initiating the crossing operation:

- Movement of crossing troops into attack positions.
 - Movement of reserve elements into assembly areas.
 - Use of smoke.
 - Feint, demonstration, and other deception measures.
 - Suppressive fires.
 - Artificial illumination.
-

Selection of
Crossing Sites

Units must consider and evaluate crossing sites, both technical and tactical requirements. The units should plan the crossing on a wide front to deny the defender the capability of massing his fires.

The following is a list of desired characteristics to guide the selection of a water crossing site:

- Banks lightly held or defended by the enemy.
 - Ready access to a good avenue of approach to objectives on the far bank.
 - Covered approaches to the water obstacle.
 - Dominating terrain on the near bank for artillery observation and direct fire.
 - Unobstructed water area.
 - Suitable above and below water level banks requiring minimum preparation for entry and exit of fording vehicles.
 - Manageable currents.
 - Bed composition and water depth that will permit fording.
-

Reconnaissance
of Crossing Sites

The purpose of the reconnaissance is to locate, mark, and report suitable crossing sites. This includes determining the amount and type of enemy resistance; marking approaches and crossing sites with flags, engineer tape, and ropes; and inspecting captured bridges and abutments.

Most important to the task force commander is the result of on-site physical reconnaissance by scouts, mechanized infantry, and engineers with respect to entrances and exits, stream velocities, streambed conditions, and depths for vehicle swimming and fording operations.

The task force may have to conduct reconnaissance under enemy observation and fire.

LS/A 1, ELO 6,
Conduct of Hasty
Water crossings

During the movement to the water obstacle, the task force commander deploys his force for the anticipated crossing. He task organizes to ensure that sufficient combat and engineer assets are at the crossing site to eliminate enemy resistance and to maintain momentum.

The task force must advance as rapidly as possible to seize bridges intact before the enemy can destroy them. The lead company clears the near bank of defending or delaying enemy elements and sets up overwatch.

Reconnaissance personnel and engineers immediately reconnoiter the crossing area. The use of an air assault can neutralize enemy defenses on the far bank. Position the supporting engineers with river crossing equipment well forward in the formation to assist in crossing or bridge repair. Engineers can often make a partly demolished bridge usable by using an armored vehicle launched bridge (AVLB) to over bridge weakened or demolished spans.

Important
Aspects

The commander analyzes and examines the operation in terms of seven important aspects to conduct a hasty water crossing. These are:

- Engineers.
 - Preparation.
 - Movement.
 - Fire Support.
 - Recovery.
 - Control.
 - Ground surveillance radar (GSR).
-

Engineers

Engineers closely follow the lead elements and remove or neutralize any demolitions or mines on bridges, on approaches, or at the crossing sites. Task force personnel, augmented by engineers when available, conduct the site reconnaissance. Engineers support the crossing operation by—

- Improving entrance and exits.
 - Removing obstacles at entrances and exits.
 - Conducting or assisting in underwater reconnaissance.
 - Providing assault boats, rafts, ferries, and bridging.
 - Improving
-

LS/A 1, ELO 6, Preparation	The commander may stop his armored vehicles briefly in a covered and concealed location so they can prepare for a hasty water crossing. Additionally, the entry site may require improvement.
Movement	The units must time the movement to the water obstacle so that the initial crossing unit does not pause at the crossing site, but moves directly into the water. The units should minimize the time between the approach to the water obstacle and the crossing. Units must complete the water crossing as rapidly as possible, once water crossing operations start.
Fire support	Employ maximum fire support against known and suspected enemy positions on the far shore. Use of smoke to particularly on the flanks, to screen the reconnaissance and the crossing.
Recovery	During all water-crossing operations, maintenance personnel and equipment should be near both sides of crossing sites to assist in the recovery of stalled or sunken vehicles.
Control	The battalion task force XO (or command sergeant major) (CSM) assumes the duty of crossing control officer (or NCOIC) after the security of the site and the attack continue on the far bank. This frees the commander to concentrate on the unit's mission. The company team executive officer provides the same function for company teams if required.
Ground Surveillance Radar (GSR)	During limited visibility units can use GSR to detect enemy troop activity on the far bank indicating actions such as withdrawal, reinforcement, or shifting of units.

LS/A 1, ELO 6,
 Hasty Water
 Crossing
 Operation: An
 Illustration

The following figure graphically depicts a hasty water crossing operation:

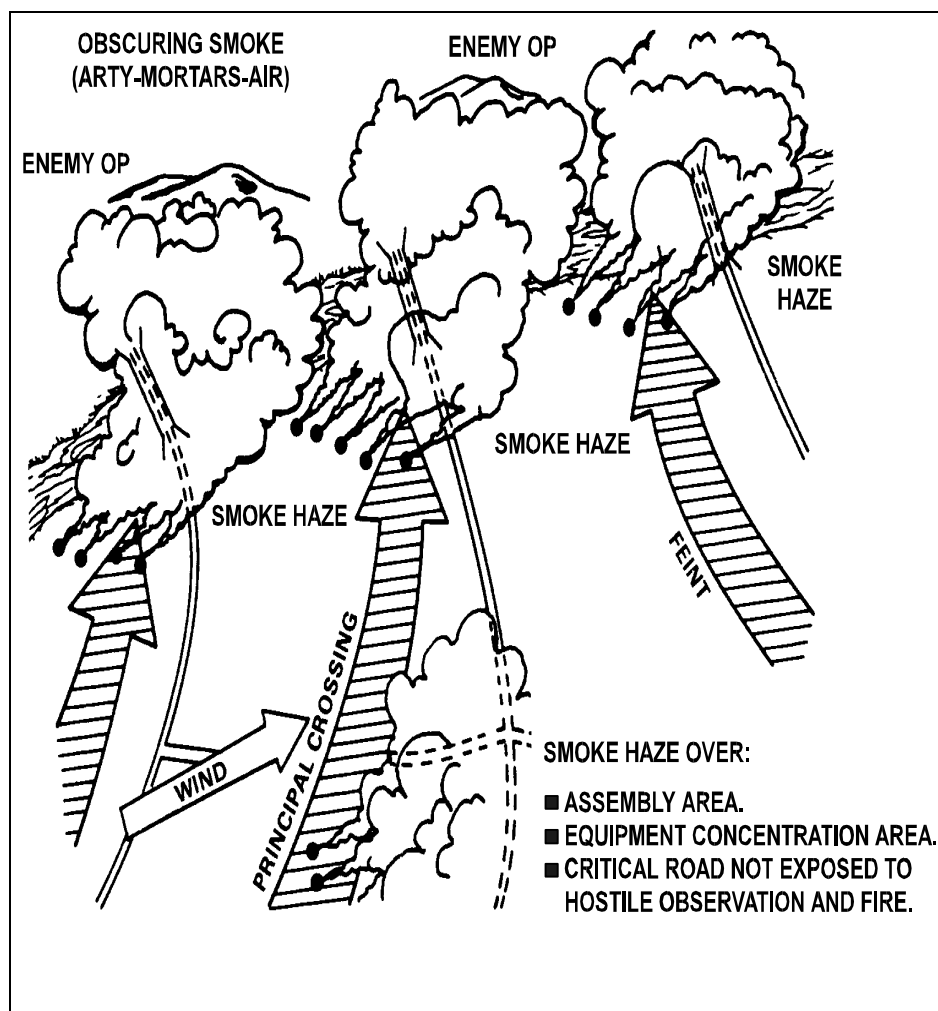


Figure 1-8. Hasty water crossing operation.

LS/A 2, ELO 6,
 Lesson
 Exercise 6

Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 6](#).

ELO 7

Action	Identify the planning and conduct of the various types of guard operations.
Conditions:	In a self-study environment using the material presented in this lesson.
Standard:	In accordance with, FM 71-2 w/ Change 1, FM 71-3, FM 71-123, and the material provided in this Preresident Training Support Package.

**Learning Step/
Activity (LS/A)
1, ELO 7,**

Definition of
Guard operation

A guard operation is a security operation in which a unit protects a larger unit by:

- Maintaining surveillance.
- Providing early warning.
- Destroying enemy reconnaissance elements.
- Preventing enemy ground observation of and direct fire against the main body.

Purpose of the
Guard Force

The guard force provides the larger force warning, reaction time, and maneuver space. The guard force delays, destroys, or stops the enemy within its capability.

The commander conducting the guard operation must know the following:

- Intent of the higher force commander.
- Degree of security required.

Types of Guard
Operations

Based on the relationship of the guard force to the main body, there are three types of guard operations. They are:

- Front (or Advance).
- Flank.
- Rear.

Task forces have the mobility, organization, and equipment needed to perform a guard operation as a part of a division or brigade offensive operation. They may receive assistance from air cavalry or attack helicopter units placed under the guard forces operational control.

LS/A 1, ELO 7,
Conduct of
Guard
Operations

The protected force commander must firmly engrain his intent into the mind of the guard force commander. The guard force protects the main body from surprise, direct fire, and premature deployment. Expect the guard to attack, delay, or defend to destroy enemy reconnaissance elements and force deployment of the enemy's first echelon.

Commanders receiving flank guard missions must clear the area between the main body and its designated positions. The guard force may require additional ground or air assets to accomplish this. A task force conducting an advance guard operation for a moving force must protect the entire front of the moving force.

Normally, the task force is augmented (operational control (OPCON), attached or direct support (DS)) with engineer, air defense, chemical, air cavalry, or attack helicopter forces. Units performing guard missions normally have the priority of fire from designated field artillery units within the main body.

Front
(or Advance)
Guard

A task force conducting an advance guard normally conducts a movement to contact with company teams advancing on axes or in zone, depending on the commander's estimate.

The trail elements of the task force should be at least 3,000 to 4,000 meters forward of the main body to allow freedom of maneuver for the main body.

The advance guard attempts to destroy enemy forces through hasty attacks. If the units are unable to destroy the enemy resistance, the task force will reconnoiter to identify a bypass route for the main body, report the enemy size and location, fix, and bypass the enemy.

LS/A 1, ELO 7,
Flank Guard

A task force receives a flank guard mission when the division is conducting a movement to contact. The flank guard has the responsibility to clear the area between the main body and flank guard's designated positions.

The battalion task force must be prepared to operate on a frontage clearly greater than it would during other operations. Usually, this area extends from the lead forward screen, along the flank of the formation, to the rear of the moving formation, tying in with the rear guard. The potential length of a division on the move makes for a very difficult mission.

Rear Guard

The rear guard protects the rear of the main body and all CS and CSS elements within the main body. It accomplishes this by conducting an attack, a defense, or a delay.

The task force conducting rear guard operations follows the same axis of advance as the protected force at a distance prescribed by the main body commander. The task force commander designates company team battle positions or sectors. He will designates phase line and checkpoints to control movement.

The task force used the scouts to:

- Screen between battle positions.
- Screen forward of battle positions.
- Reconnoiter in-depth positions or routes.

As a minimum, the farthest elements of the rear guard should be at least 3,000-4,000 meters to the rear of the main body's rear boundary. The limiting factor on this distance is the range of the main body's supporting artillery.

LS/A 2, ELO 7,
Lesson
Exercise 7

Click here to go to [Lesson Exercise 7](#).

SECTION IV SUMMARY

Review/ Summarize Lesson

In this lesson you have identified other tactical operations support requirements necessary for a battalion/brigade to operate in combat effectively: Retrograde operations, passage of line, relief operations, breakout from encirclement, linkup, hasty water crossing and guard operations.

Knowing what assets are available, their capabilities and limitations, and how to utilize them to their fullest extent will allow you as a battle staff NCO to advise and assist the commander in development of his plans and ensure victory on the battlefield.

Check on Learning

The seven lesson exercises that you completed during this lesson serve as the check on learning for this lesson.

Transition to Next Lesson

None

SECTION V STUDENT EVALUATION

Testing Requirements

Prior to being enrolled into Phase II of the Battle Staff Course you must take a Phase I Exam that includes questions on material from this lesson. You must correctly answer 70% of the multiple choice questions to receive a "GO" on the Phase I exam. A "GO" is required for enrollment into Phase II.

Feedback Requirement

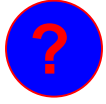
None



Lesson Exercise 1: Instructions

The following five questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 1. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.

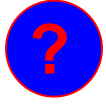




During a retrograde operation, the task force can degrade enemy mobility by:

- A. Early evacuation of casualties and unneeded supplies.
- B. Improving existing road networks and controlling traffic flow.
- C. Occupation and control of terrain or choke points that dominate high speed avenues of approach.
- D. The need for a covering force for rearward passage of lines.

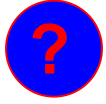




Military doctrine recognizes three types of retrograde operations. They are:

- A. Delay, Deception, Counterattack.
- B. Mobile, Direct, Sequential.
- C. Retirement, Disengagement, Reconnaissance.
- D. Withdrawal, Retirement, Delay.

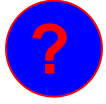




A delay in sector is an operation in which the battalion task force is:

- A. To employ complex task organizations during the engagement.
- B. Not to employ deception measures.
- C. To slow and defeat as much of the enemy as possible without sacrificing the tactical integrity of the force.
- D. To prevent the enemy from reaching a specified area regardless of the cost.



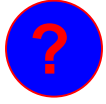


Complete the following statement.

In a delay from successive positions, the task force fights _____ from one position to another and holding each for as long as possible or for a specified time.

- A. forward
- B. laterally
- C. rearward
- D. upward





In assigning sectors of responsibility for a delay action, the task force commander normally assigns coverage of an avenue of approach to:

- A. A company team.
- B. The weapons platoon.
- C. Brigade elements.
- D. Artillery units.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

Occupation and control of terrain or choke points that dominate high-speed avenues of approach. PTP, Page 8.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Withdrawal, retirement, and delay. PTP, Page 6.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

Is required to slow and defeat as much of the enemy as possible without sacrificing the tactical integrity of the force. PTP, Page 10.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

In a delay from successive positions, the task force fights rearward from one position to another and holding each for as long as possible or for a specified time. PTP, Page 12.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is A.

Company team. PTP, Page 15.



CORRECT

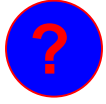




Lesson Exercise 2: Instructions

The following three questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 2. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.

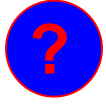




What are the two types of passage of lines operations?

- A. Coordination and Reconnaissance.
- B. Forward and Rearward.
- C. Forward and Reverse.
- D. Withdrawal and Delay.



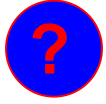


Complete the following statement.

To ensure coordination of passage with a minimum of confusion and misunderstanding, the command groups of the _____ and stationary elements are collocated.

- A. Combat
- B. Direct
- C. Main
- D. Passing





A forward passage of lines is an operation in which:

- A. An encircled force attempts to break out.
- B. A unit conducting a retrograde movement passes through the sector of a unit occupying a rearward position.
- C. A unit passes through another unit toward the enemy.
- D. Weak or non-existent enemy defenses are on both flanks.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

Forward and Rearward. PTP, Page 29.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

To ensure coordination of passage with a minimum of confusion and misunderstanding, the command groups of the passing and stationary elements are collocated.

PTP, Page 27.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

A unit passes through another unit toward the enemy. PTP, Page 29.



CORRECT

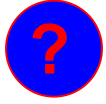




Lesson Exercise 3: Instructions

The following five questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 3. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.

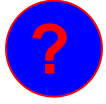




When conducting a relief to continue the offense, which of the following methods are best?

- A. Area relief, forward passage of lines, or relief in place.
- B. Area relief, relief in place.
- C. Reconstitution, relieving units one at a time, relieving units simultaneously.
- D. Relief to continue the defense, relief in place.



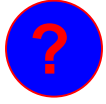


Complete the following statement.

A _____ operation is one in which a unit replaces another unit in combat.

- A. Counterattack
- B. Link-up
- C. Relief
- D. Replacement

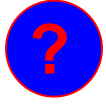




The most common form of relief in the offense is:

- A. Area relief.
- B. Forward passage of lines.
- C. Reconstitution.
- D. Relief in place.

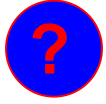




Which of the following techniques for conducting a relief is the most time-consuming?

- A. Relief in place.
- B. Relieving by occupying in depth or adjacent positions.
- C. Relieving units one at a time.
- D. Relieving units simultaneously.





The sequence of relief in a relief operation is

- A. Front to rear.
- B. Higher to lower.
- C. Left to right.
- D. Rear to front.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is A.

Area relief, forward passage of lines, or relief in place. PTP, Page 32.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

A relief operation is one in which a unit replaces another unit in combat. PTP, Page 31.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

Forward passage of lines. PTP, Page 32.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

Relieving units one at a time. PTP, Page 33.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Rear to front. PTP, Page 32.



CORRECT

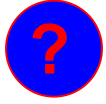




Lesson Exercise 4: Instructions

The following four questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 4. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.

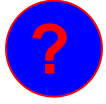




To execute a breakout operation, the battalion task force has four elements. Which element has the mission of accomplishing the initial breach of the enemy force?

- A. Main Body.
- B. Rear Guard.
- C. Reserve Force.
- D. Rupture Force.



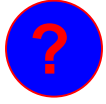


Complete the following statement.

A breakout is a(n) _____ operation conducted by an encircled force.

- A. Defensive.
- B. Offensive.
- C. Retrograde.
- D. Security.





When planning a breakout operation, the battalion task force protects its vulnerable rear and flanks by organizing a

- A. Deception plan.
- B. Flank attack.
- C. Rear guard.
- D. Reserve force.





The main body of a task force conducting a breakout from encirclement operation consists of the following:

- A. Command group, main command post, CS and CSS elements.
- B. Reserve force, rupture force, rear guard.
- C. Scout platoon, air mobile forces, special operations force.
- D. Tactical reserve, command group, combat support troops.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

Rupture force. PTP, Page 38.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

A breakout is an offensive operation conducted by an encircled force.
PTP, Page 36.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

When planning a breakout operation, the battalion task force protects its vulnerable rear and flanks by organizing a rear guard. PTP, Page 39.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is A.

Command group, main command post, and CS and CSS elements. PTP, Page 39.



CORRECT

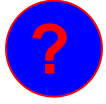




Lesson Exercise 5: Instructions

The following three questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 5. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.

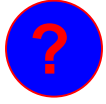




Which of the following circumstances would constitute a linkup operation?

- A. Breaching or removing an obstacle.
- B. Complete the encirclement of an enemy force.
- C. Delay in sector.
- D. Fire and maneuver.

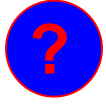




What are the two different ways of conducting linkup operations?

- A. Linkup between two moving units and linkup involving one stationary and one moving force.
- B. Meeting and stationary linkup.
- C. Static and mobile linkup.
- D. Reconnaissance and map reconnaissance linkup.





Complete the following statement.

The _____ directing the linkup is responsible for ensuring that signal operating instructions and recognition signals are compatible between the two forces involved in a linkup operation.

- A. Division commander
- B. G-2
- C. Headquarters
- D. Scout platoon



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

Complete the encirclement of an enemy force. PTP, Page 41.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is A.

Linkup between two moving units and linkup involving one stationary and one moving force. PTP, Page 41.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

The headquarters the linkup is responsible for ensuring that signal operating instructions and recognition signals are compatible between the two forces involved in a linkup operation. PTP, Page 43.



CORRECT

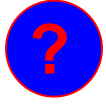




Lesson Exercise 6: Instructions

The following four questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 6. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.



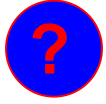


Complete the following statement.

A battalion task force plans and conducts three types of water crossings; deliberate, retrograde, and

- A. Concealed.
- B. Hasty.
- C. Surprise.
- D. Tactical.



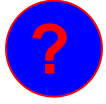


Complete the following statement.

When a battalion task force conducts a hasty water crossing the ____ may assume the duty of crossing control NCOIC after securing the crossing site.

- A. Adjutant
- B. Command Sergeant Major
- C. Executive officer
- D. Platoon sergeant



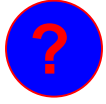


Complete the following statement.

A hasty water crossing operation should be planned on a _____ to deny the defender the capability of massing his fires.

- A. Hilly terrain
- B. Large scale
- C. Narrow sector
- D. Wide front





The decision whether to conduct a hasty water crossing operation in daylight or darkness depends on which of the following?

- A. Guard operations.
- B. Multiple passage points.
- C. Location of the main command post.
- D. State of training of the troops.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

A battalion task force plans and conducts three types of water crossings; deliberate, retrograde, and hasty. PTP, Page 45.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

When a battalion task force conducts a hasty water crossing the Command Sergeant Major may assume the duty of crossing control NCOIC after securing the crossing site.
PTP, Page 49.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

A hasty water crossing operation should be planned on a wide front to deny the defender the capability of massing his fires. PTP, Page 47.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is D.

State of training of the troops. PTP, Page 46.



CORRECT

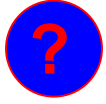




Lesson Exercise 7: Instructions

The following four questions will test your knowledge of the materials covered in ELO 7. There is only one correct answer for each item. When you answer each question, you will be given immediate feedback. If you answer any question incorrectly, study that part of the ELO again.

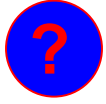




A security operation in which a unit protects a larger unit by maintaining surveillance, providing early warning, destroying enemy reconnaissance elements, and preventing enemy observation of and direct fire against the protected unit, describes:

- A. Advance guard.
- B. Flank guard.
- C. Guard operations.
- D. Rear guard.



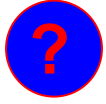


Complete the following statement.

The purpose of a guard force is to provide the larger unit warning, reaction time, and _____.

- A. A cleared maneuver area.
- B. Maneuverability.
- C. Maneuver space.
- D. Maneuver time.

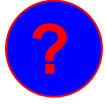




The types of guard operations are:

- A. Advance, front, and rear.
- B. Arms room, motor pool, and payroll.
- C. Front, rear, and flank.
- D. Front, sides, and advance.





The distance normally maintained between the rear guard force and the main body is:

- A. 1000 to 1500 meters or visual contact.
- B. 3,000 to 4,000 meters or within artillery range.
- C. Direct fire maximum range, but no farther than 6000 meters.
- D. 15,000 to 20,000 meters or maximum radio range.



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

Guard operations. PTP, Page 51.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

The purpose of a guard force is to provide the larger unit warning, reaction time, and maneuver space. PTP, Page 51.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is C.

The types of guard operations are front, rear, and flank. PTP, Page 51.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

The correct answer is B.

3,000 to 4,000 meters or within artillery range. PTP, Page 53.



CORRECT



